Astrophysics of Stellar Triples

Completed Technology Project (2016 - 2017)



Project Introduction

Previous studies and large photometric surveys suggest that eclipsing binaries have a peak in the period distribution around 1 day, but binary formation theories struggle to create these short-period systems in situ. Theories have been proposed to tighten the inner-binary after its initial formation through a variety of mechanisms - some of which require the presence of a third stellar component. By identifying and then studying triple systems which can test the predictions of these theories, as well as the statistics of the multiple star population as a whole, we hope to gain a better understanding of binary formation and evolution.

Primary U.S. Work Locations and Key Partners



Organizations Performing Work	Role	Туре	Location
Vanderbilt University	Supporting Organization	Academia	Nashville, Tennessee

Primary U.S. Work Locations	
Tennessee	



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Organizational Responsibility

Responsible Mission Directorate:

Science Mission Directorate (SMD)

Responsible Program:

Astrophysics

Project Management

Program Manager:

Joe Hill-kittle

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NASA

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Project Management *(cont.)*

Principal Investigator:

Keivan G Stassun

Co-Investigators:

Kyle Conroy Sarah B Dumais

Technology Areas

Primary:

- TX07 Exploration Destination Systems
 - ☐ TX07.1 In-Situ Resource Utilization
 - └─ TX07.1.4 Resource
 Processing for
 Production of
 Manufacturing,
 Construction, and
 Energy Storage
 Feedstock Materials

Target Destination

Outside the Solar System

